AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) A file managing apparatus for managing files recorded on a recording medium by resorting to an index file recorded on said recording medium;

wherein said index file is formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information being arranged to correspond with said files;

wherein hierarchy management information which is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium; and

wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily;

wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group;

wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files;

wherein said file managing apparatus-changing changes, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion, the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted and which primarily points to another entry, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management; and

wherein said file managing apparatus includes a display unit to display said extract information about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, so that said file managing apparatus accepts processing of the file associated with said entry about which said extract information is displayed.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, given an instruction to delete the file associated with the entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which primarily points to another entry and which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management, said file managing apparatus deletes the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium.

5. (Currently amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, given an instruction to restore the file associated with the entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which primarily points to another entry and which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management, said file managing apparatus establishes said hierarchy management information primarily pointing to another entry in such a manner as to point to a predetermined entry which is an entry determined by a user in advance or an entry designating by the user.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said file managing apparatus, when changing said hierarchy management information primarily pointing to another entry in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management, records a date of the change to said index file.

9. (Original) The file managing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said file managing apparatus checks said date of said change against the current time of day and, depending on an outcome of the check, deletes the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium.

10. (Currently amended) The file managing apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 8, wherein said file managing apparatus ~~checks said recording medium for a free space and, depending on an outcome of the check, deletes from said index file the entry furnished with said management information which primarily points to another entry and which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management and also deletes the corresponding file from said recording medium~~ sets an entry for a virtual folder with date of the change in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management and changes said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to said entry for the virtual folder.

11. (Currently amended) A file managing method for managing files recorded on a recording medium by resorting to an index file recorded on said recording medium;

wherein said index file is formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information being arranged to correspond with said files;

wherein hierarchy management information which is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium; and

wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily;

wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group;

wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files;

said file managing method comprising the step of changing the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted and which primarily points to another entry, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (New) The file managing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said file managing apparatus checks said date of said change against the current time of day and depending on an outcome of the check, deletes the corresponding entry and said entry for the virtual folder from said index file, and deletes the corresponding file from said recording medium.

15. (New) The file managing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the corresponding file is deleted from said recording medium according to a lapse of a predetermined time from date of the change.

16. (New) The managing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the corresponding file is deleted from said recording medium according to a lapse of a predetermined time from date of the change.

17. (New) The file managing method according to claim 11, further including a step of displaying said extract information about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, so that

said file managing apparatus accepts processing of the file associated with said entry about which

said extract information is displayed.